during 1991-92 has been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) The lines targetted were Manmad-Aurangabad (114 km), Salempur-Barhaj Bazar (22 km), Bangalore-Mysore (138 km) and Lalgarh-Surpura (50 km) Of these, Manmad-Aurangabad and Salempur-Bazar have since been opened Bangalore Mysore has been delayed due to adverse law and order situation arising out of Cauvery water dispute and Lalgarh-Surpura due to public agitation in Bikaner

[English]

WHO Report on AIDS

*193 SHRI A. CHARLES Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the report of the World Health Organisation wherein reference has been made to the likely magnitude of the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and AIDS in India by the end of this century,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto, and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) (a) Govt. are not aware of any such report of the World Health Organisation.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

(d) The Government started implementation of the AIDS Control Programme from 1987 The following activities have been undertaken so far.–

(1) screening of groups practising at risk behaviour through a network of 67 surveillance centres in 35 cities

(2) prevention fo transmission through blood and blood products by establishing facilities for HIV testing in Zonal Blood Testing Centres and surveillance centres

(3) Health education through Press and Media

(4) Clinical management of AIDS cases and training of medical and paramedical staff in 13 identified hospitals

A comprehensive project for prevention and control of AIDS was formulated and posed to the World Bank Negotiation have recently been concluded for financing the project The project will involve an outlay of Rs 270 crores (US $ 100 million) and will be implemented for a period of 5 years beginning from April 1992 The International Development Association (a soft loan affiliate of the World Bank) will provide an outlay of Rs 229 5 crores (US $ 85 million) The World Health Organisation will provide an assistance of Rs 4.05 crores (US $1 5 million) and the balance project outlay of Rs 36 5 crores (Us 13 5 million) will be funded by the Government of India

The National AIDS Control Project will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the Eighth Five Year Plan Assistance will be provided both in cash and kind to the State/UT Governments for implementing the project activities Project activi

ties will be undertaken in the following areas:–

- Condom Promotion
- Blood safety
- Control of sexually transmitted disease
- Information, education and communication
- Surveillance
- Case management
- Programme management

Criteria for Awarding Railway Contracts

*194. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed new criteria for awarding railway contracts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any quota has been fixed for SC/ST persons in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Reservation of a quota of contracts for any specific section of the society by the Government agencies is not in the best public interest nor is it an accepted policy.

[*Translation*]

Import of Wheat

*195. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI PROBIN DEKA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import wheat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the countries from which wheat is proposed to be imported and the quantity and value thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check its likely adverse effect on the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government have decided to import one million tonnes of wheat with a view to increase its availability and to contain market prices. No contracts for import have, however, been signed so far.

(d) Imports are not likely to affect the domestic market adversely.

[*English*]

Eco-Task Forces

*196. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing strength of the Eco-Task